

244 CMR 8.00: LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

Section

- 8.01: Effective Date
- 8.02: Definition of Terms
- 8.03: Initial Licensure by Examination as a Professional Nurse
- 8.04: Initial Licensure by Examination as a Practical Nurse

8.01: Effective Date

244 CMR 8.00 shall be effective on the date of implementation of the National Council Licensure Examination administered by computer adaptive testing.

8.02: Definition of Terms

Applicant means individual who has submitted a full NCLEX application.

Board means Board of Registration in Nursing.

Candidate means an individual who has been determined eligible by the Board to write NCLEX.

Eligibility means determination of an applicant's ability to write NCLEX based on criteria specified in M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 74 and 74A, and Board regulations promulgated thereunder.

Eligibility Period means period during which a candidate must write NCLEX. Duration of eligibility begins on the printing date of the Authorization to Test Certificate and expires 60 calendar days later; or on the date the candidate writes NCLEX, whichever comes first. The eligibility period is applicable to both first time and repeat candidates. Candidates who do not write NCLEX within the eligibility period must again apply to write NCLEX and submit all required fees and forms.

Graduation means the date the NCLEX applicant graduated as defined in the policy of the applicant's nursing program.

NCLEX means National Council Licensure Examination.

NCLEX-PN means National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses.

NCLEX-RN means National Council Licensure examination for Registered Nurses.

8.03: Initial Licensure by Examination as a Professional Nurse

- (1) To be licensed as a professional nurse, applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Provide to the Board satisfactory proof of good moral character as established by the Board;
 - (b) Payment of a licensure fee as determined by the designated authority and payment of established NCLEX-RN registration and administration fees;
 - (c) Certification of Graduation:
 - 1. Graduates of a Board-approved professional nursing program within the United States must have their status as graduates certified by the nursing program administrator or his/her designee.
 - 2. Graduates of a professional nursing program located outside the United States, or graduates of a professional nursing program located in Canada who are not eligible for licensure by endorsement according to 244 CMR 2.03(3), must be certified by the Board, or its designee, as a graduate of an approved nursing program. Board certification may be granted on the basis of applicant receipt of a Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools certificate, or a Board-designated credentials review and, for graduates of nursing programs offered in a language other than English, achievement of a minimum score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

8.03: continued

(d) After fulfilling the requirements of 244 CMR 8.03(1)(a) through (c), successfully write NCLEX-RN during the NCLEX Eligibility Period.

(2) Candidates who fail NCLEX-RN may write NCLEX-RN again based on the NCLEX Retake Policy established by the Board.

8.04: Initial Licensure by Examination as a Practical Nurse

(1) To be licensed as a practical nurse, applicants must meet the following criteria:

(a) Provide to the Board satisfactory proof of good moral character as established by the Board;

(b) Payment of a licensure fee as determined by the designated authority and payment of established NCLEX registration and administration fees;

(c) Certification of Graduation:

1. Graduates of a Board-approved practical or professional nursing program within the United States must have their status as graduates certified by the nursing program administrator or his/her designee.

2. Graduates of a professional or practical nursing program located outside the United States must be certified by the Board or its designee, as a graduate of an approved nursing program. Board certification may be granted on the basis of applicant receipt of a Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools certificate, or Board-designated credentials review and, for graduates of a nursing program offered in a language other than English, achievement of a minimum score of 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

3. Former students in good standing at an approved professional nursing program who, at the time of withdrawal, had completed a program of study, theory, and clinical practice equivalent to that required for graduation from an approved practical nursing program, must have such program completion certified by the Board.

4. After fulfilling the eligibility requirements of 244 CMR 8.04(1)(a) through (c), successfully write NCLEX-PN during the NCLEX Eligibility Period.

(2) Candidates who fail NCLEX-PN may write NCLEX-PN again based on the NCLEX Retake Policy established by the Board.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

244 CMR 8.00: M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 74, 74A, 75, 76B, 81B, and 81C.